

NEW STUDY ASKED IN PANTHER CASE

Civic Groups in Chicago Act
After Criticism by Jury

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CHICAGO, June 20—Civic groups here have called for appointment of a special prosecutor and county grand jury to reopen an investigation into the slaying of two Black Panthers in a predawn police raid.

Their action came after a Federal grand jury report severely criticized the police and the investigation.

The two—Fred Hampton, the party's Illinois chairman, and Mark Clark, a Peoria organizer—were shot to death when policemen were assigned to the Cook County State's Attorney's office raided a West Side apartment with a search warrant for weapons.

The police and State's Attorney Edward V. Hanrahan described the encounter, at 4:40 A.M. last Dec. 4, as a ferocious "shoot-out" and gave long and detailed accounts of their version of it.

The Panthers charged the police had broken in with guns blazing and that their leader was "murdered in his bed."

Only One Shot

Last month, the Federal grand jury reported that, while the police had fired between 82 and 99 rounds into the five-room apartment, only one shot could be attributed to the Panthers.

The grand jury did not hand down indictments against any of the 14 policemen involved in the raid, saying it was unable to do so because the seven Panthers who survived the encounter refused to testify.

The Panthers said they refused as a matter of "party policy" because the Federal panel was "not a jury of our peers." Attempted murder and other charges against the survivors were dropped when two shell casings attributed by the state's attorney to a Panther shotgun were found to have been fired from a police weapon.

The grand jury also found a series of false statements by police officers and a police investigation of the incident "so seriously deficient that it sug-

gests purposeful malfeasance."

The Chicago Bar Association, the Illinois division of the American Civil Liberties Union, the Chicago Council of Lawyers, and an organization called Businessmen for the Public Interest have filed petitions with the presiding judge of the Criminal Court, Joseph A. Power, seeking appointment of a special prosecutor and grand jury.

Deeply Involved

They argue that because the policemen who carried out the raid were assigned to the State's Attorney's office and because the prosecutor himself, Mr. Hanrahan, was deeply involved in the controversy surrounding the affair, only a specially appointed independent prosecutor can find out what actually happened.

Mr. Hanrahan at first objected to the petition, but later withdrew his objection. In doing so, however, he insisted that "there is no basis in fact or in law for the appointment of a special grand jury or a special prosecutor."

The withdrawal motion said that "unsupported and false charges and unjust inferences, highly publicized, concerning the Federal grand jury report, have caused the false inference to be drawn by some of official wrongdoing." It added that the State's Attorney would "welcome full disclosure to the public."

Mr. Hanrahan's first assistant, James C. Murray, who filed the motion withdrawing the earlier objection, denied that widespread criticism had anything to do with the reversals.

Purely Legal Standpoint

Mr. Hanrahan, he said, "looks at things from a purely legal standpoint."

"He obviously feels it is necessary from a legal standpoint to withdraw our objections," he said.

This week, Federal Judge Edwin A. Robson ruled that Judge Power could examine the transcript of the grand jury proceedings to help him reach a decision.

Judge Power is expected to rule June 26 on the appointment of a special prosecutor and jury.